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Letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 13 December 2003 by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the opening of the Loya Jirga in Kabul on 13 December 2003.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 13 December 2003 by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the opening of the Loya Jirga in Kabul on 13 December 2003

The presidency, on behalf of the European Union, expresses it sincerest wishes for the successful outcome of the constitutional Loya Jirga in Afghanistan. The European Union hopes that the new constitution will be pluralistic and based on universal human rights, including equal rights for men and women.

The approval of the constitution — which represents a fundamental step in the peace process established by the Bonn Agreement — will also be the foundation of a future of peace and prosperity for the Afghan people. The European Union reconfirms its full commitment to that goal.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.